

talk about, can make a huge difference to a family with a sick child or in need of child care. Sixty thousand children could be positively affected by keeping the funding level for child care, not to mention the thousands of kids who need the help in our children's hospitals for pediatric care, and not to mention the abused and neglected children that would benefit from this amendment.

I hope that the request that I am making to my colleagues on the Budget Committee with this amendment will find some room in their hearts to at least keep the playing field level for children and families that need our help. If we reduce the tax cut by this tiny amount, it will not cause any great damage to other people. These programs are deserving. The American public believes that children who are sick and need care, abused kids, deserve to get help.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. DOMENICI. If the Senator will modify the amendment so the money is taken out of the contingency fund instead of the tax cut it will be passed. Otherwise, we will have to wait and see what we can do.

I will take a minute in response to the Senators who spoke for a tax number considerably lower than the President's. I heard the number was \$1.25 trillion. I heard both of the Senators on the other side, led by Senator BREAUX, say we ought to have a bipartisan approach. The President came to town and they are quite sure this is what he would like because it is bipartisan.

I remind everybody what I am willing to do as chairman of the Budget Committee, to make sure the Senate understands—each and every Senator and those who report for them—we are asking for the President's proposal. I have heard him now more than 10 times clarify this. They ask him: What about \$1.25 trillion, Mr. President? What about \$1.4 trillion, Mr. President? Of course he is good-natured; he listens and he says: I think that is too low. I think that is too low. They ask for a higher amount because some want more than 1.6, and he says that is too high and 1.6 is just about right.

Those who are suggesting they are doing what the President is seeking when they are asking for \$1.25 trillion instead of \$1.6 trillion, that is their proposal. That is not the President's proposal. It may be they will prevail and we won't get the President's proposal.

I want everybody to know that is my brief response to the two or three speeches made on the other side of the aisle, led by the distinguished senior Senator from Louisiana, the junior Senator from Nebraska, and the senior Senator from New Jersey.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in advocating passage of the Bond and Mikulski amendment on science and tech-

nology research funding. This amendment recognizes the critical importance of Federal science and technology funding in expanding the frontiers of science and laying the groundwork for economic success.

The Bond-Mikulski amendment will increase the funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's R&D activities, and NASA. Importantly, the increase to NSF would return us to a path to double that agency's funding over the next five years. I have worked for many years with Senators FRIST, LIEBERMAN and others on the Federal Research Investment Act, which would double federal funding government-wide for science and technology research. That bill has passed the Senate twice, but has yet to become law. This year I hope that it will pass both Houses and become law. This amendment contributes to that larger overall effort by maintaining our funding trajectory for several agencies for the current budget. The Federal Research Investment Act is still necessary to reach our goal on the larger group of agencies that together represent our nation's overall commitment to federal science support, and to ensure that funding will be adequate over a longer time period.

Senators BOND, MIKULSKI, FRIST, LIEBERMAN, and I are not alone in our call for more substantial funding for science and technology research. The House Science Committee, CEOs of our high technology companies, Presidents of our leading universities, our top scientists and economists, and representatives of labor organizations have all made it clear that Congress must make significantly higher long-term investments in science and technology research. Congressional failure to appropriate more funding for science and technology research will threaten America's competitive advantage in information technology, biotechnology, health science, new materials, and other critical technology-intensive fields. As we all know, many of our best economic thinkers, including Alan Greenspan, MIT economist Lester Thurow, and Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter, have asserted that our country's leadership in these areas is a critical ingredient for future economic success.

This amendment gives us a chance to make an important investment in our country's future and to lay the groundwork for continued American high-tech leadership. I urge my colleagues to heed our high-tech, academic, and labor leaders' call to action on federal R&D support and work together to pass this important amendment.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor this amendment offered by Senators BOND and MIKULSKI to increase funding authorization for Function 250. Studies have shown that roughly half of the economic growth in the past 50 years is a direct result of technological innovation; science, engineering, and tech-

nology play a central role in the creation of new goods and services, new jobs and new capital. Three of the greatest generators of innovative ideas, The National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Department of Energy, receive significant budget increases in this amendment, reaffirming our nation's commitment to achieving advances in science and technology.

This commitment to research and development is also imperative for training the next generation of scientists and engineers. Reductions in R&D translate to reductions in the number of students trained in technical disciplines. In short, strong support for federally-funded R&D is crucial to continued economic and technological success for our Nation.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to indicate my strong support for the amendment offered by Senator BOND and Senator MIKULSKI that would increase the amount of funding available for scientific research at the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Department of Energy by \$1.4 billion.

Our nation's capacity for groundbreaking scientific research is one of its greatest assets. Scientific research strengthens our economy, improves our international competitiveness and raises the quality of life for all of our citizens. President Bush's 2002 budget, however, will retard our nation's investment into such research. For example, it virtually freezes funding for the National Science Foundation, NSF, cutting facility project funding by \$13 million, and providing no funding for new projects. Such cuts threaten to throw our country's research portfolio out of balance by not providing for needed advances in the physical sciences and engineering.

Science is a bipartisan issue. A recent Wall Street Journal article reported that to pay for his tax cut, "President Bush is having to chop another Republican priority: increased government spending for science." D. Allen Bromley, a professor of nuclear physics at Yale and science and technology advisor to former President George H. W. Bush, recently wrote, "the proposed cuts by the Bush Administration to scientific research are a self-defeating policy. Congress must increase the federal investment in science. No science, no surplus. It's that simple." Even Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has been reported as calling the President's NSF budget "a tragic mistake," stating it "should be \$11 billion" instead of \$4.5 billion.

Earlier this year, a blue-ribbon panel of physicists recommended a site in my state of South Dakota, the Homestake Gold Mine, as its preferred location for a world class underground physics lab. Last year, the Homestake Mining Company announced it will close its doors this December after more than 125 years of operation. The mine has been the economic mainstay of the Black Hills of South Dakota, and its closure